



Charity No. 1124762

**West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
10th September 2011
at Regis School of Music at 8.45 pm**

Committee Members present:

Terry Woodgate (Chairman/Newsletter Editor) TW
Patrick Butcher (Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Charity & Sponsorship Officer) PB
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) SL
Baz Boxall (Deputy Treasurer) BB
Julie Insull (advance ticket sales) JI
Moyria Woodgate (Photographer/Archivist/Secretary/Press Officer) MW

TW welcomed club members to the 18th AGM of the WSGC and for the benefit of newer members introduced members of the committee.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Stella Clarke and Jill Douglas..

2) The minutes of the last AGM

The minutes from the 11th September 2010 were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

3) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

SL summarised his written report over the past season which covered 6 professional concerts, a young professional concert and 8 club evenings. There was also a guitar workshop with Stepan Rak and two very successful festivals – the WSGC Festival and the guitar section of the Chichester Festival. In addition there were two summer events – the West Dean open day concert and the Selsey Festival which have become regular events. The club was also able to offer bursaries to 8 youngsters and had just purchased some robust music equipment. The Artistic Director's report was accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

SL outlined the programme for the new season which includes concerts by Matthew McAllister, Mark Ashford, Graham Devine, Andrew Gough & his wife, Natalia Lipnitskaya and the Judicael Peroy/Jeremy Jouve Duo. In addition to the 2 usual guitar festivals (with Mark Ashford, Charles Ramirez, Graham Devine and Paul Gregory as adjudicators), it is proposed to resurrect the guitar section of the Worthing Festival in May.

SL and TW thanked the committee for their help in organising the events.

4) Adoption of the Club Accounts

PB presented the accounts which showed the best balance ever. This was attributed to tax refunds from HMRC on account of our charitable status, a one off grant from the now dissolved Westdene Trust and grants from various local governments. In addition, PB thanked our sponsors and the members who had donated more than the recommended minimum amount to the club. Professional recitals continue to lose money and members were encouraged to invite friends and neighbours along using their complimentary guest tickets where applicable.

The statement of club accounts was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

PB reported that current membership stands at 113 members with many being family members. Some 60% of members had now chosen to renew by SO which does help considerably with the administration. Why so many members are reluctant to renew by SO is not clear. Member Roger Ainley said he objected to his bank details being kept on the membership database and had asked for them to be removed. He said it was dangerous to send details of a name and address together with bank details on the SO form through the post, but it was pointed out that a bank statement has all these details anyway. TW said that only the Treasurer has access to this database and all bank transactions are traceable. He also said that

committee member's time is valuable and that the SO forms which just required a member's signature were distributed because it simplifies administration. This avoids members renewing over a protracted period of time which involves a lot of unnecessary extra work. Some members said it was easy for them just to sign the SO form and return it in the SAE. The majority of club financial transactions are now carried out electronically by bank credit transfers.

5) Election of Club Officers

TW said that regretfully he and MW were standing down from the committee. They will continue as newsletter editor and photographer/archivist respectively. They felt they were both slowing down and jobs were piling up at home and TW wanted to spend more time actually playing the guitar. Irina Ilieva is also standing down as Hospitality Officer. In addition Alison & David Stonestreet were standing down as librarians hopefully just for a period of some 3 months. JI agreed to undertake librarian duties at the School. Angela McTavish offered to undertake Press Officer duties. Baz Boxall, Debbie Burford and Robin Smith have volunteered to serve on the committee. The new committee was voted in by a unanimous show of hands. The new posts are now:

Sasha Levtov Chairman and Artistic Director
Patrick Butcher Treasurer and Sponsorship Officer
Debbie Burford Secretary
Baz Boxall Membership Secretary and Charity Officer
Robin Smith Hospitality Officer
Julie Insull advance ticket sales.

TW thanked the committee and said that it should be noted that the committee members undertake many other tasks in addition to those assigned.

6) Discussion of Club Affairs

TW said that with each successive year the club becomes more successful. This is reflected not only in festival entries and membership numbers, but also in the increased standards of performance from our members. TW thanked Alison & David Stonestreet for their sterling work with the library. They had made over 2000 entries on the library database and the library is greatly used by members. TW also thanked Jez Rogers, our website guru in New Zealand, who publicises the club to the world. Last year the club had some 50-100,000 hits worldwide.

Angela McTavish thought that although youngsters under 18 are admitted free of charge, more youngsters may come to concerts if they were actually given complimentary tickets. In the ensuing discussion, it was felt many youngsters are put off from the concerts by the term 'classical'. Although the club tries to have one light concert each season, with only 6 concerts per year, it was felt the emphasis must be on classical music.

7) AOB

TW concluded the AGM by thanking everyone for attending and again requesting help at events and festivals. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10:15pm.

Moyria/Terry Woodgate 11th September 2011